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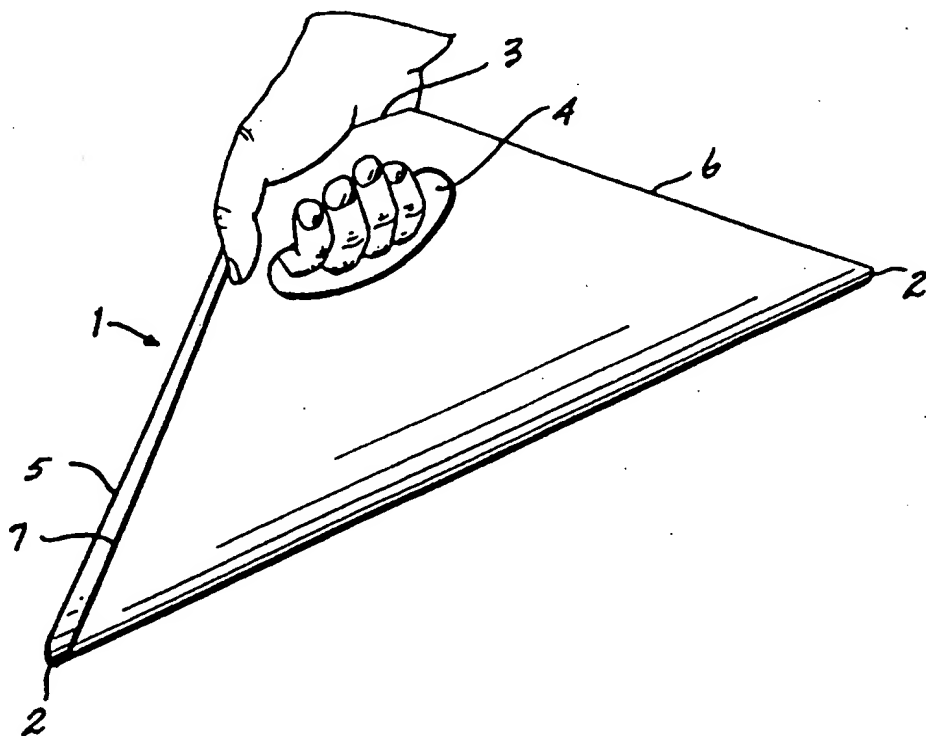
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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US95/14856 (22) International Filing Date: 13 November 1995 (13.11.95) (30) Priority Data: 08/339,073 14 November 1994 (14.11.94) US (60) Parent Application or Grant (63) Related by Continuation US 08/339,073 (CON) Filed on 14 November 1994 (14.11.94) (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: KEGLEY, Bill, A. [US/US]; P.O. Box 6636, Lynnwood, WA 98036 (US). (74) Agent: BROWN, Ward; Christensen, O'Connor, Johnson & Kindness P.L.L.C., Suite 2800, 1420 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG), ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG). Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

(54) Title: CUTTING BOARD IMPROVEMENT



(57) Abstract

A chopping - cutting board (1) is constructed of flexible plastic sheeting which can be folded along a diagonal direction and held in this position with one hand, making transfer of materials from a large cutting surface to a smaller receptacle easy.

b. the vertical flanges extending upward from the cutting surface will interfere with the cutting process;

c. again, as in the Bertelsen design, sharp angles and multiple joined components make cleaning difficult and the growth of bacteria a possibility.

5 5,203,548 Sanders 4/1993 -- A one piece flexible cutting board with a projecting handle which can be folded into a chute. Disadvantages of this design are:

a. the cutting surface is small;

b. only one side of the Sanders design is usable as a cutting surface.

10 My cutting board improvement will have none of the disadvantages of the prior art while incorporating all of the desirable qualities into a novel one piece flexible cutting board. Advantages of my invention include:

a. a large unobstructed cutting area;

b. one piece construction with no seams or joints where bacteria can form;

15 c. can be formed into a chute or funnel effect for easy transfer of food to a smaller container;

d. only one hand required to operate;

e. large capacity when folded;

f. very economical to manufacture.

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Summary of the Invention

The object of the present invention is to provide a cutting or chopping board with a large unobstructed working area and no protruding handles. A further object is to provide a one piece seamless cutting board which can be formed into a chute or funnel for easy transfer of chopped material. Still a further object is to allow one hand operation of said cutting board to allow easy transfer of large quantities of chopped food to a smaller receptacle.

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Brief Description of the Drawings

FIGURE 1 is a top plan of the cutting board improvement of the present invention; and

30 FIGURE 2 is a top perspective illustrating the present invention in use.

Detailed Description

Refer now to FIGURE 1, which is a top view of the present invention in the preferred embodiment. The board 1 will be made of flexible sheeting such as H.D.P.E., a plastic commonly used in the manufacture of cutting boards. A thickness of one sixteenth of an inch will provide both flexibility and strength, however this thickness may vary with different materials. FIGURE 1 shows a cutting board that is

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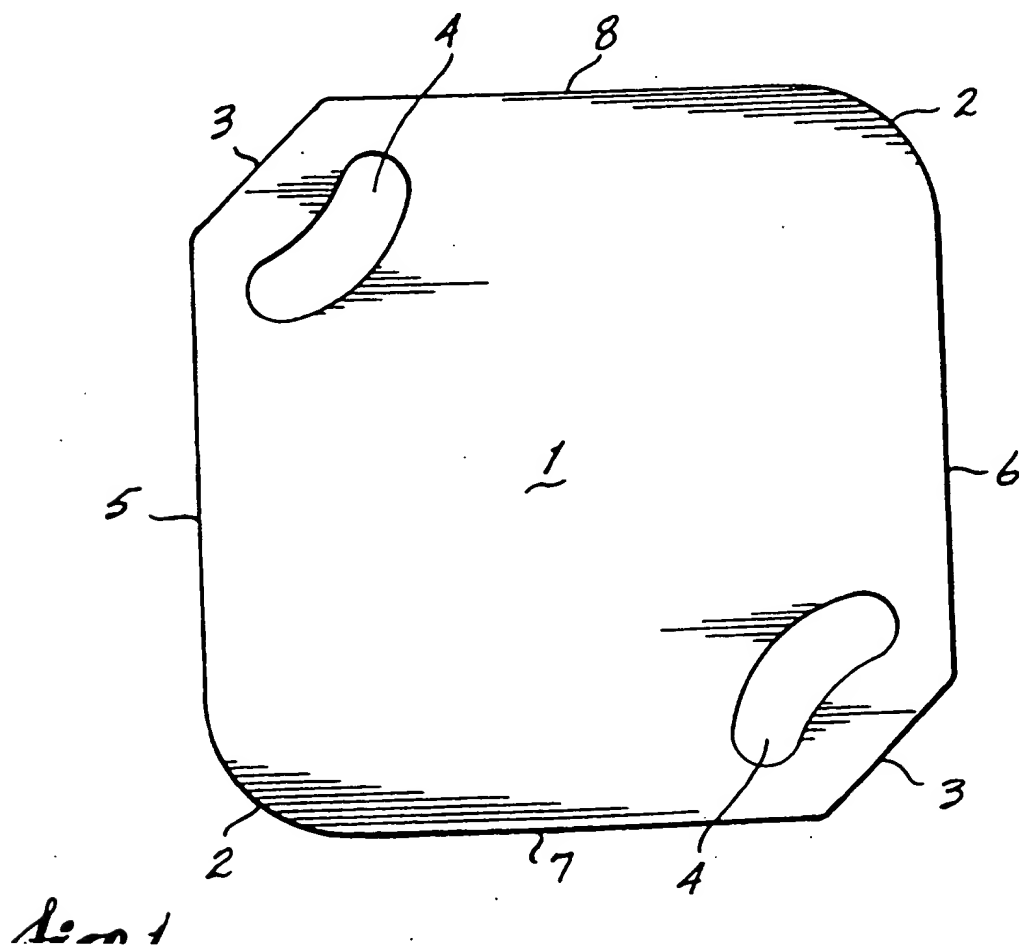
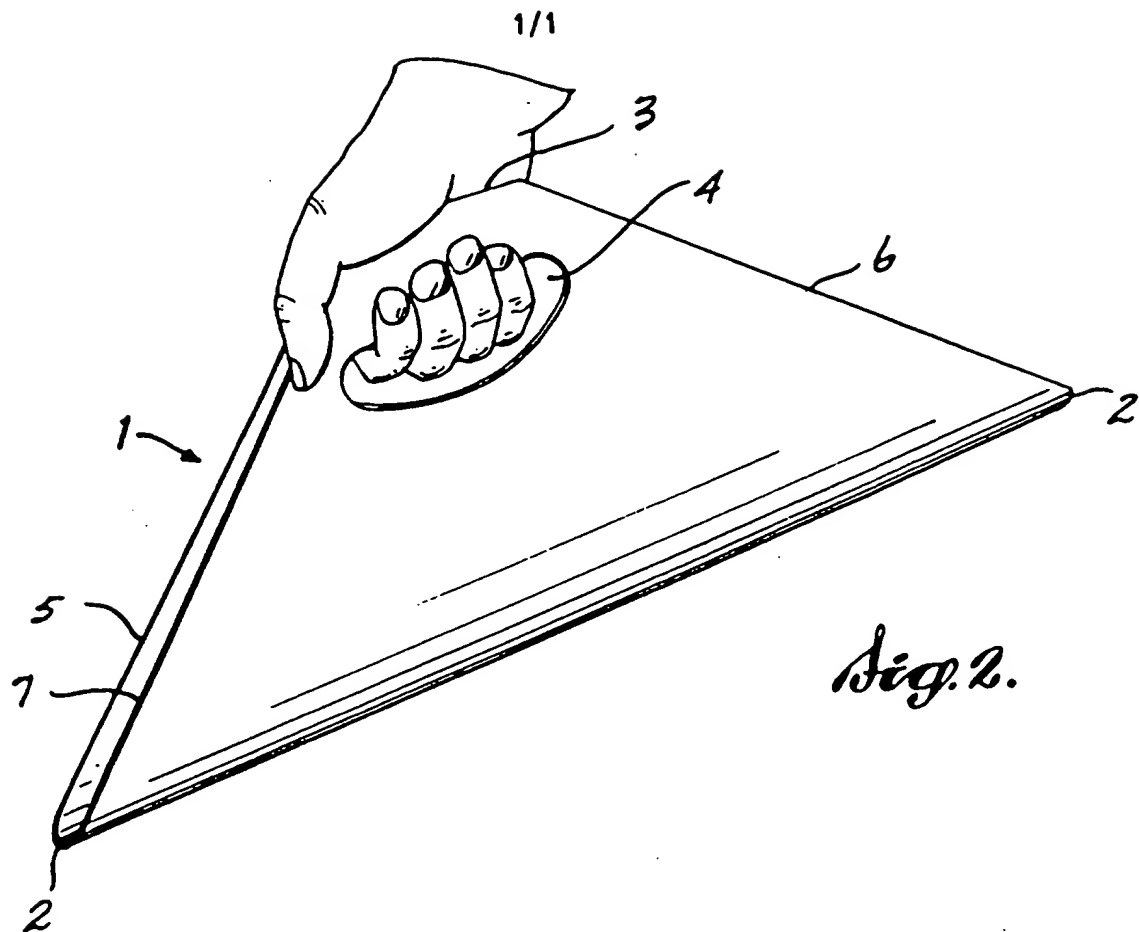
square in shape and approximately sixteen inches along a side. Two diagonally opposing corners (defining a first pair) of the cutting board are rounded or arcuate. In FIGURE 1, the rounded corners 2 are ninety degrees in arc with a radius of approximately three inches. Each of the remaining two diagonally opposed corners (defining a second pair) shall be cut to form a straight corner edge 3 approximately three and one half inches long and parallel to that diagonal of the board which runs through the rounded corners 2. As shown in the drawings, the board 1 has long and straight opposite side edges 5 and 6, and long and straight opposite end edges 7 and 8, each extending from a rounded corner 2 to a straight corner 3. Two elongated hand holes 4 approximately one and one half inches wide and four inches long are cut into the board approximately one inch inward from and parallel to the diagonally opposed corners 3 so that the longer dimension of the hand hole lies parallel to edge 3. Each hand hole defines an arc having its concave side facing the adjacent corner edge 3.

15 In use the board is placed on a flat surface such as a countertop. Material chopped on the board can then be transferred to a smaller receptacle by folding the board along the diagonal intersecting the rounded corners 2 and placing one hand through the registered hand holes. In this position the board forms a chute or funnel, as seen in FIGURE 2, with adjacent end and side edges 5, 7 and 6, 8 being inclined from the rounded corners 2 to the corners 3.

20 While the preferred embodiment of the invention has been illustrated and described, it will be appreciated that various changes can be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

CLAIMS:

1. A cutting board comprising a substantially square, flat, flexible sheet having a first pair of diagonally opposite corners, a second pair of diagonally opposite corners, opposite side edges extending between corners of the first and second pairs, opposite end edges extending between corners of the first and second pairs, and four corner portions adjacent, respectively, to the corners of the first and second pairs of diagonally opposite corners, the sheet having a hand hole in the corner portion adjacent to each of the corners of the second pair of diagonally opposite corners, and the sheet being foldable along a diagonal intersecting the corners of the first pair of diagonally opposite corners to place the hand holes in registration and form a chute with adjacent end and side edges of the sheet inclined from the first pair of diagonally opposite corners to the second pair of diagonally opposite corners.
2. The cutting board defined in Claim 1, in which each hand hole is elongated in a direction generally parallel to the diagonal intersecting the corners of the first pair.
3. The cutting board defined in Claim 2, in which the corners of the second pair of diagonally opposite corners are straight edges interconnecting the adjacent side and end edges of the sheet.
4. The cutting board defined in Claim 1, in which each hand hole defines an arc having its concave side facing the adjacent corner of the second pair.
5. The cutting board defined in Claim 1, in which the corners of the second pair of diagonally opposite corners are straight edges and the corners of the first pair of diagonally opposite corners are arcuate.
6. A cutting board comprising a substantially square sheet of flexible material having; a first pair of diagonally opposite corners, each corner of the first pair being arcuate; a second pair of diagonally opposite corners, each corner of the second pair being straight; long and straight opposite side edges and long and straight opposite end edges, each of the side and end edges extending between a corner of the first pair and a corner of the second pair; the sheet having two elongated hand holes each located adjacent to one of the corners of the second pair and each defining an arc having a concave side facing the adjacent corner; the sheet being foldable along a diagonal intersecting the corners of the first pair of diagonally opposite corners to form a chute.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US95/14856**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(6) :A47J 43/00

US CL :269/289R

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 269/289R, 302.1, 13, 15, 3, 303, 315;
248/60, 74.3

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	GB, A, 2,248,177 (COX) 01 APRIL 1992, SEE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-6
Y	FR, A, 2,343,461 (PLANCHE) 07 OCTOBER 1977, SEE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-6

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A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reasons (as specified)	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	*A* document member of the same patent family
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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